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C₃
 Concl. said turn signal assembly radiating light at least along a light-radiating axis that extends generally rearwardly away from the passenger compartment of the vehicle when operated on the vehicle;

said turn signal assembly including at least one louver, said at least one louver configured in order to shield the driver from light radiated by said light source; and

a floodlight adapted to project another pattern of light generally downwardly and rearwardly on an area adjacent a portion of said vehicle in order to create a lighted security zone in said area.

136. (Amended)

C₄ The mirror system of Claim 107, wherein said at least one light source comprises a plurality of light-emitting diodes.

REMARKS

In light of the above amendments and following remarks, Applicant respectfully request reconsideration of the present application. The amendments and remarks presented herein are fully supported by the application as originally filed. No new matter has been entered.

STATUS OF THE CLAIMS:

Claims 107-245 are pending in the application. Claims 115-117, 123, 124, 148-150, 156, 157, 180-182, 188-189, 214-216, and 222-223 are withdrawn from consideration as being drawn to a non-elected invention. Claims 107-114, 118-122, 125-147, 151-155, 158-179, 183-187, 190-213, 217-221, and 224-245 have been considered on the merits.

DOUBLE PATENTING:

The Examiner rejects Claims 107-114, 118-122, 125-147, 151-155, 158-179, 183-187, 190-213, 217-221, and 224-245 under the judicially created doctrine of double

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patenting over Claims 1-62 of U.S. Patent No. 6,296,379, Claims 1-61 of U.S. Patent No. 6,299,333, Claims 1-40 of U.S. Patent No. 6,176,602, Claims 1-165 of U.S. Patent No. 5,879,074, Claims 1-111 of U.S. Patent No. 6,086,229, Claims 1-164 of U.S. Patent No. 6,074,077, Claims 1-106 of U.S. Patent No. 5,497,306, Claims 1-10 of U.S. Patent No. 5,313,335, and Claims 1-121 of U.S. Patent No. 5,669,705.

The reference to U.S. Patent No. 5,313,335 appears to be in error, since this patent is not owned by the Applicant. Applicant submits herewith a Terminal Disclaimer that obviates the obviousness-type double patenting rejection of the claims. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests that the obviousness-type double patenting rejection be withdrawn.

CLAIM REJECTIONS UNDER 35 USC § 102:

The Examiner rejects Claims 107-111, 118, 121, 128, and 134-135 under 35 USC § 102(b) as being anticipated by Japanese Document No. 61-188242.

The Examiner rejects Claims 107-111, 118, 121, 128, and 134-135 under 35 USC § 102(b) as being anticipated by German Reference No. DE 3635473.

Applicant respectfully traverses. Applicant respectfully submits that neither the Japanese reference, namely Japanese Document No. 61-188242, nor the German references, namely German Document DE 3635473, discloses or suggests the claimed combination. For example, neither Japanese Document 61-188242 nor German Document DE 3635473, for example, discloses or suggests a turn signal light assembly. Translations of both references are included with the Response to the Office Action for the Examiner's reference.

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Notwithstanding, Applicant has amended Claim 107 to more clearly define

Applicant's invention, which now calls for:

A vehicular exterior rearview mirror system suitable for use on a vehicle, the vehicle including a passenger compartment and a longitudinal axis, said mirror system comprising:

- an exterior mirror assembly adapted for mounting to a side of a vehicle;
- said exterior mirror assembly including a reflectance element, said reflectance element being moveably mounted on an actuator for providing remote positioning of said reflectance element;
- a turn signal light assembly fixedly mounted in said exterior mirror assembly separate from said reflectance element whereby movement of said reflectance element is independent of said turn signal light assembly;
- wherein said turn signal light assembly comprises at least one light source connected to a turn indicator circuit;
- said turn signal assembly radiating light at least along a light-radiating axis that extends generally rearwardly away from the passenger compartment of the vehicle when operated on the vehicle; and
- said turn signal assembly including at least one louver associated with said at least one light source, said at least one louver configured in order to shield the driver from light radiated by said at least one light source when said turn indicator circuit actuates said at least one light source.

Applicant respectfully submits that in addition to the deficiencies noted above, neither the Japanese Document 61-188242 nor the German Document DE 3635473 discloses or suggests, for example, a turn signal assembly including at least one louver associated with the at least one light source configured in order to shield the driver from the light radiated from the at least one light source when said turn indicator circuit actuates the at least one light source. Furthermore, neither the Japanese Document 61-188242 nor the German Document DE 3635473 discloses or suggests a turn signal light assembly with at least one light source connected to a turn indicator circuit. Therefore, Applicant respectfully submits that Claim

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107 and its dependent claims, namely Claims 108-120 and 122-140, are patentably distinguishable over the Japanese document or the German document. Applicant respectfully notes that Claims 115-117, 123, and 124 are dependent upon an allowable claim and, thus, should be included back into the case as being dependent upon an allowable claim and, therefore, no longer properly restrictable in the present matter.

With reference to Claim 121, Applicant has rewritten Claim 121 in independent form, which calls for:

A vehicular exterior rearview mirror system suitable for use on a vehicle, the vehicle including a passenger compartment and a longitudinal axis, said mirror system comprising:
an exterior mirror assembly adapted for mounting to a side of a vehicle;
said exterior mirror assembly including a reflectance element, said reflectance element being movably mounted on an actuator for providing remote positioning of said reflectance element;
a turn signal light assembly fixedly mounted in said exterior mirror assembly separate from said reflectance element whereby movement of said reflectance element is independent of said turn signal light assembly;
wherein said turn signal light assembly comprises a light source;
said turn signal assembly radiating light at least along a light-radiating axis that extends generally rearwardly away from the passenger compartment of the vehicle when operated on the vehicle;
said turn signal assembly including at least one louver, said at least one louver configured in order to shield the driver from light radiated by said light source; and
a floodlight adapted to project another pattern of light generally downwardly and rearwardly on an area adjacent a portion of said vehicle in order to create a lighted security zone in said area.

Applicant respectfully submits that neither the German Document DE

3635473 nor Japanese Document 61-188242 discloses or suggests the claimed combination.

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For example, neither the German document nor the Japanese document discloses or suggests a vehicular exterior rearview mirror system that includes an exterior mirror assembly with a turn signal light assembly fixedly mounted in the exterior mirror assembly in combination with a flood light adapted to project another pattern of light generally on an area adjacent a portion of the vehicle in order to create a lighted security zone in the area. Therefore, Applicant respectfully submits that Claim 121 is patentably distinguishable over German Document DE 3635473 or Japanese Document 61-188242 alone or in combination or in combination with any other reference of record.

CLAIM REJECTIONS UNDER 35 USC § 103:

The Examiner rejects Claims 112-114, 119-120, 122, 125-127, 129-133, and 136-140 under 35 USC § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Japanese Document No. 61-188242 or German Reference No. DE 3635473.

Claims 112-114, 119-120, 122, 125-127, 129-133, and 136-140 are dependent upon amended Claim 107 and are, therefore, patentably distinguishable over German Document DE 3635473 or Japanese Document 61-188242 for at least the reasons set forth above in reference to Claims 107-111, 118, 121, 128, 134, and 135. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully submits that Claims 112-114, 119-120, 122, 125-127, 129-133, and 136-140 are, therefore, patentably distinguishable over Japanese Document 61-18822 or German Document DE 3635473.

Accordingly, Applicant respectfully submits that Claims 141-147, 151-155, 157-179, 183-187, 190-213, 217-221, and 224-245 are allowable and should be allowed along with Claims 115-117, 123, 124, 128, 148-150, 156, 157, 180-182, 188, 189, 214-216, and 222-223, since they depend from the allowed claims. Claims 115-117, 123, 124, 128,

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148-150, 156, 157, 180-182, 188, 189, 214-216, and 222-223 incorporate all the limitations of the sub-combination base claim; therefore, they are no longer properly restrictable from Claims 141, 172, or 206, respectively. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully solicits a Notice of Allowance of all claims.

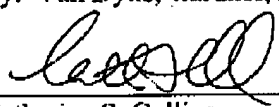
Should the Examiner have any questions or comments, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at (616) 975-5506.

Respectfully submitted,

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By: Van Dyke, Gardner, Linn & Burkhardt, LLP

February 24, 2003
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APPENDIX OF CLAIMS

107. (Amended)

A vehicular exterior rearview mirror system suitable for use on a vehicle, the vehicle including a passenger compartment and a longitudinal axis, said mirror system comprising:

an exterior mirror assembly adapted for mounting to a side of a vehicle;

said exterior mirror assembly including a reflectance element, said reflectance element being moveably mounted on an actuator for providing remote positioning of said reflectance element;

a turn signal light assembly fixedly mounted in said exterior mirror assembly separate from said reflectance element whereby movement of said reflectance element is independent of said turn signal light assembly;

wherein said turn signal light assembly comprises [a] at least one light source connected to a turn indicator circuit;

said turn signal assembly radiating light [from said light source] at least along a light-radiating axis that extends generally rearwardly away from the passenger compartment of the vehicle when operated on the vehicle; and

said turn signal assembly including at least one louver associated with said at least one light source, said at least one louver configured in order to shield the driver from light radiated by said at least one light source when said turn indicator circuit actuates said at least one light source.

112. (Amended)

The mirror system of Claim 107, wherein said light radiated by said at least one light source comprises one of red colored light and amber colored light.

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119. (Amended)

The mirror system of Claim 107 wherein said at least one light source comprises at least one light-emitting diode chosen from an orange light-emitting diode, a yellow light-emitting diode, a red light-emitting diode, an amber light-emitting diode, and a reddish-orange light-emitting diode.

120. (Amended)

The mirror system of Claim 107, wherein said at least one light source comprises one chosen from a red light-emitting diode and an amber light-emitting diode.

121. (Amended)

[The] A vehicular exterior rearview mirror system [of Claim 107, wherein said exterior mirror assembly incorporates] suitable for use on a vehicle, the vehicle including a passenger compartment and a longitudinal axis, said mirror system comprising:

an exterior mirror assembly adapted for mounting to a side of a vehicle;

said exterior mirror assembly including a reflectance element, said reflectance element being moveably mounted on an actuator for providing remote positioning of said reflectance element;

a turn signal light assembly fixedly mounted in said exterior mirror assembly separate from said reflectance element whereby movement of said reflectance element is independent of said turn signal light assembly;

wherein said turn signal light assembly comprises a light source;

said turn signal assembly radiating light at least along a light-radiating axis that extends generally rearwardly away from the passenger compartment of the vehicle when operated on the vehicle;

said turn signal assembly including at least one louver, said at least one louver configured in order to shield the driver from light radiated by said light source; and

a floodlight adapted to project another pattern of light generally downwardly and rearwardly on an area adjacent a portion of said vehicle in order to create a lighted security zone in said area.

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136. (Amended)


The mirror system of Claim 107, wherein said at least one light source comprises a plurality of light-emitting diodes.

Respectfully submitted,

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